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Castro Scores Russian Capitalism

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New York (AP) — Fidel Castro, conceding differences with Moscow, sees Russia as becoming more capitalistic all the time and says that the Russians, Chinese and East European Communists fail to practice true Marxism-Leninism as the Cuban party views it.

The bearded, 41-year-old prime minister expressed these opinions in an interview with Herbert L. Matthews, 10 years after Matthews, then a New York Times correspondent, met Castro and his rebels in the Sierra Maestra hills in the early days of their revolution. Matthews is now retired from the Times, and the interview is being published today by War-Peace Report, a monthly publication which describes itself as having a "liberal editorial bent."

Matthews probed Castro's current views while touring the Cuban countryside with the prime minister. What were the prospects of improved relations with Washington? Castro dismissed the question with a single word: "Impossible."

What Cuba is practicing today, Castro told Matthews, is "true Marxism-Leninism as we see it, but it is not communism as it is practiced in Russia, Eastern Europe or China." He denied that differences between capitalism and communism were diminishing steadily. But he said, "I do agree that Communist countries like Russia are becoming more capitalistic, because they are relying on material incentives more and more." Castro criticized the Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria and other East European countries for seeking commercial accords in Latin America.

Matthews reports that he found Castro in a state of euphoria about the outlook for the Cuban economy, his enthusiasm as fresh and strong as in his revolutionary days. Castro was especially enthusiastic about Cuba's cattle, bred from strains brought in from Canada and Britain.

"Our economic system is being planned gradually and with much success to create a society in which money will become unnecessary except for certain things that cannot be acquired in other ways," Castro said. "It will take a long time, but we do not believe in the materialistic concepts of capitalism or other types of communism in which money is the incentive."

Matthews reports that Castro is better guarded than he used to be, because "the CIA, the Cubans firmly believe, has been trying hard to kill him in recent months."

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